

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2732

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 21655

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TH

SUBJ: RELATIONS WITH HANOI - VNAF PLANES

REF: STATE 240666

1. DEPARTMENT IS CORRECT IN NOTING THAT THE RTG POSITION, OR AT LEAST FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI'S POSITION, ON FORMER VNAF AIRCRAFT MAY BE SLIPPING. CHATCHAI TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD SOME DEGREE OF RECONCILIATION WITH HANOI BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM OF FORMER VNAF AIRCRAFT AND PROBED FOR SOME WAY OUT OF THE IMPASSE.

2. WOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE, HE ASKED, TO PILE UP A JUNKYARD IN ONE PLACE FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF NVN TO SEE. (THIS IS A FAVORITE TOLD CHESTNUT.) I SAID THAT WE HAD PHOTOGRAPHS OF PILED UP JUNK AT UDORN AND TAKHLI BUT THESE HEAPS WOULD NOT STAND CLOSE INSPECTION BY OBSERVERS ARMED WITH TAIL NUMBERS. THE BEST ANSWER WAS THE ONE I THOUGHT HAD BEEN AGREED TO BY THE PRIME MINISTER; THAT THE RTG WOULD SAY THE PLANES HAD BEEN SOLD FOR SCRAP.

3. CHATCHAI THEN PLEADED FOR JUST ONE OR TWO PLANES

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WHICH COULD BE RETURNED. I SAID NOTHING DOING

POINTING OUT THAT MANY IF NOT MOST OF THE PLANES
HAD BEEN GIVEN TO RTAF, OTHERS WERE GOING DISCREETLY
TO THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE RTG'S CONSENT. WE COULD
NOT AGREE TO ANYTHING BEING RETURNED TO NVN. INDEED
IT WAS ABSURB FOR HANOI TO PRETEND THAT SOUTH VIET-
NAM WAS INDEPENDENT AND THEN MAKE AN ISSUE OF THE
PLANES. CHATCHAI SAID GLUMLY QTE THAT WE HAVE A DEAD-
LOCK UNQTE. I SAID QTE YES UNQTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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